

# *MAPI, Connector, IMAP, and POP3*

## **Specialized Protocols for Email and Calendar Use**

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### **MAPI and Oracle Connector**

MAPI is an acronym for **M**essaging **A**pplication **P**rogramming **I**nterface. MAPI drivers allow Outlook 2000 to work better with the OpenMail email server. These drivers enable the Outlook user to send auto replies, change passwords, and store contacts on the OpenMail server.

Cal Poly supports MAPI drivers for the OpenMail server that only work with Outlook 2000. Oracle's MAPI driver, the Connector, works with Outlook 2000, 2002, and 2003.

Like the MAPI drivers used on the OpenMail email server, Oracle Connector provides other features in Outlook, such as server-side rules, server-side contact storage (on the Oracle Calendar server), improved folder sharing, and the ability to view mail server quotas. Oracle Connector also allows you to use your Oracle Calendar from within Outlook.

### **IMAP and POP3: Standard Protocols for Email**

#### ***IMAP***

IMAP stands for Internet **M**essage **A**ccess **P**rotocol. It is a method of accessing electronic mail or bulletin board messages that are kept on a mail server. In other words, it permits a client email program to access remote message stores as if they were local. For example, email stored on an IMAP server can be manipulated from a desktop computer at home, a workstation at the office, or a notebook computer while traveling, **without** the need to transfer messages or files back and forth between these computers.

#### **Advantages**

- 1) Messages remain on the server, and changes are copied back from your local computer so that you always have access to an updated mailbox.
- 2) You only download message headers when opening your inbox. Opened messages are downloaded to your local computer so that startup time is faster.
- 3) You can access your mail from multiple locations and see folders and their contents from many workstations.
- 4) Modem performance is faster.
- 5) You can save disk space by synchronizing specific mail folders for offline use.
- 6) You can access and store mail in folders on the server.

#### **Disadvantages**

- 1) If you lose your server connection and have not copied messages to your local computer, you can only see the message headers, not the messages themselves.

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- 2) To read messages while offline, you must select messages for downloading before going offline.

## **POP3**

POP stands for **P**ost **O**ffice **P**rotocol. POP3 is the third version of POP.

### **Advantages**

- 1) After you connect to the server, POP3 downloads all messages to your local computer, making offline reading easier.
- 2) You can specify whether to keep copies of the messages on the server. If you lose your connection while working, you still have access to messages.
- 3) The OpenMail and Oracle email servers and most Internet Service Providers (ISPs) support POP3 access.

### **Disadvantages**

- 1) You must synchronize your local inbox with your server's mailbox. If you use more than one computer, messages may reside in one or the other. Consequently, you cannot always access all messages when needed.
- 2) POP3 doesn't work well over a slow connection.